

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
109 Market Street, Room 106, Denton, Maryland

Minutes
March 23, 2020

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.

The meeting began at 9:00 AM.

Closure of the FY2022 Public Budget Hearing: Requested Operating & Capital: Margaret Roe, Director, Office of Finance stated that the public hearing was held on March 16, 2021 and held open for 7 days to receive any additional public testimony. She stated that the county received testimony from the following:

- Caroline County Human Services Council
- Caroline County Office of Tourism
- Caroline Men for Change
- Chesapeake College

She stated that the full testimony is detailed in the minutes for the March 16, 2021 meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the commissioners voted to close the FY2022 Budget Hearing for the Requested Operating & Capital Budgets.

Closure of the FY2022 Annual Municipal Property Tax Differential Hearing: Cathie Moore, Comptroller stated that no comments or additional testimony had been received in regard to the Tax Differential. On motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin the commissioners moved to close the FY2022 Annual Municipal Property Tax Differential Hearing.

COVID-19 Response Update: Laura Patrick, Health Officer, stated that she is pleased to update the Commissioners on the latest activity. She stated that each week the county is increasing on the population vaccinated. Ms. Patrick stated that the positivity rate remains low with only 16 cases in the past week. The positivity rate is 1.75% percent which continues to be lower than the State of Maryland. She stated that she continues to be pleased with the efforts between partners, staff and volunteers to keep vaccination clinics rolling. She informed the Board the County remains currently in phase 2A, however as of April 27th they will be able to vaccinate anyone over the age of 16 in Caroline County.

Anna Sierra, Director, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services, stated that the County has been working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to deploy the first every mobile vaccination unit fully staffed to the Caroline County. She went on to explain how exciting it will be to deploy this mobile vaccination site. She stated that all vaccines allocated to the unit will be the Johnson & Johnson vaccine which is only one dose. She explained that the unit is intended to provide 250 doses a day to county residents, which will be in addition to the doses already allocated to the county by the State. This is the first ever mobile unit to be deployed by FEMA so she stated that there are bound to be some bumps in the road, however Caroline County is grateful and can't wait to start this process in early April. She explained that the mobile unit will move around to neighboring counties weekly for a wider distribution.

Dr. Saelens, Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools, stated that the CDC updated social distancing guidelines regarding students and in person learning to allow only 3ft distance, which will allow for more students to be brought back from hybrid learning. She went on to state that currently with 4 days of face to face learning the school system has still kept positivity rates low between students and faculty. Currently the Board is excited and eager to continue the planning for normal face to face graduation ceremony.

Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff, updated the Commissioners on all public information regarding vaccinations. She explained that Jamie Beechy, Equity Officer, has worked closely with her Equity Team and well as the PIO team to develop and distribute educational material which will be handed on in preparation for the FEMA Mobile Vaccination unit.

Consent Agenda: the following items were approved my unanimous consent

- Minutes: February 23, 2021, March 2, 2021, March 9, 2021
- Employment Contract, Department of Emergency Services, Paramedic (Trice)
- [FEMA Licensing Agreement \(Ridgely Tech Park\)](#)

County Administrator's Report

- Mr. Goldman stated that the County has the opportunity to apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) in the total amount of \$1,503.689. The grant provided direct financial assistance and housing stability services to renters who are struggling to may payments for their rent and utilities which must be COVID-19 related. All funds are valid through December 2022 so the process will not be as quick as the program the county ran this past winter.
- Mr. Goldman stated that due to the swift timeline to apply for this grant he is requesting permission from the Board to allow him to execute the grant application outside of a Commissioners meeting.
- On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levengood, the commissioners unanimously motioned to allow Jeremy Goldman to move forward with the ERAP Grant Application.

County Commissioners Open Discussion Period:

Commissioner Franklin stated that he continues to receive more positive feedback regarding the vaccination process in Caroline county form citizens that have made it through the processes. The Commissioners stated that they continue to remain impressed by the efficiency and effort that had gone into this process

Commissioner Levengood thanked staff and volunteers on how smoothly everything continues to remain running in the vaccine process. He stated that he is extremely proud. He stated that he also heard Choptank Electric is about to turn the first pieces of broadband on for their providers, which is a positive project that is starting to move forward.

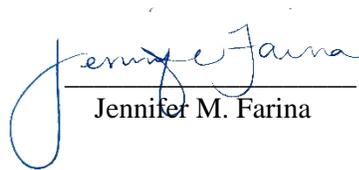
Commissioner Porter stated that he has been going through details on the stormwater management issue for a piece of property on Pealiquor . He stated that Public Works is working on a solution to fix the issues in a timely manner, which the property owners are very appreciative of. This particular piece of property has history with this issue dating back to 2004. Commissioner Porter ended by emphasizing its always the County's goal to work with our citizens and do the best we can to resolve these matters that are often complicated.

At 10:06 a.m. on motion by Commissioner Franklin, Seconded by Commissioner Levensgood the Commissioners unanimously moved into Closed Session to discuss the specific appointment or employment of a county employee, under the 2014 Maryland Code, State Government 3-305 (b)(1)

At 10:41 a.m. on motion by Commissioner Levensgood, second by Commissioner Franklin the Commissioners moved back into open session to report out.

Presidents Report: Commissioner Porter stated that the Commissioners met in closed session to discuss the resignation of a specific county employee.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.


Jennifer M. Farina